



A Better Way Foundation (ABWF) is a Connecticut-based organization dedicated to shifting current drug policy from a paradigm that prioritizes incarceration to one that prioritizes public health, treatment and public safety. ABWF engages in research, education, advocacy and organizing in order to enable progressive drug policy reform and criminal justice agendas. ABWF develops and trains future activists of the drug policy, criminal justice reform and public safety communities by using organizing principles with a focus on resident and community empowerment.

ABWF's local and national work is governed by the following ethics, beliefs and principles:

- We do not do for others what they can do for themselves.
- People directly affected by the issue are the best representatives.
- Organizing thrives when new knowledge is built and existing knowledge is analyzed and criticized.
- Targeted direct action and occupying political spaces are forms of communication.
- Employing existing networks are just as valuable as establishing new networks.
- Measuring success through leadership development and victories around an issue.

Despite its reputation as a progressive state, Connecticut not only has one of the highest incarceration rates of all Northeastern states, the state justice system also leads the nation in racial disparities. ABWF's work was borne of the need to resist reactionary public policies that have resulted in the incarceration of tens of thousands of Connecticut citizens for drug offenses and nonviolent crimes.



Law and Justice Community Conversation June 2008

Executive Summary

For close to a decade, A Better Way Foundation has worked to eliminate barriers everyday people face when participating in the legislative process. From organizing lunches, tours, meet your legislator and lobby days at the Capitol, A Better Way strategies to demystify the legislative process has engaged and oriented thousands to feel and act part of the legislative process.

Speak Up! Speak Out! is another step in the direction of bringing the legislative process closer to its citizens. Speak Up! Speak Out! was commissioned by the A Better Way Law and Justice Commission and designed to do three things: inform on the multiple ways mass incarceration and the war on drugs is crippling society, present an advocacy tool kit that if followed, will guide you to build a successful legislative advocacy campaign and inform people on how to navigate the Capitol and the Legislature. Unlike its predecessor that was graciously compiled by a University of Connecticut School of Social Work class in 2005, Speak Up! Speak Out! represents voices of people in the great State of Connecticut. When people found that Speak Up! Speak Out! was being put together and that it would reflect the lives of everyday people; stories, testimonies and poems were submitted to the A Better Way offices. Although not all of these stories and testimonies were published, the spirit behind the stories is represented.

Chapter 1 of Speak Up! Speak Out! titled *Important Facts You Need to Know* reflects the hard work of the Law and Justice Commission. After a year of research and discussions, the Law and Justice Commission identified what they believe are the top 5 issues that speak to what many believe is the moral failures of our time, which is mass incarceration and the war on drugs. In this chapter, you will learn issue by issue, what's going on in Juvenile Justice, Incarcerating the Mental Ill, Harm Reduction, Drug Policy, and Public Safety. Also in this section, you will read personal stories of people impacted by these issues. The fact sheets and personal stories are not only designed to inform but to empower with statistics, facts and personal experiences that give a total picture of the problem.

Chapter 2 of Speak Up! Speak Out! is titled Advocacy Tool Kit. This chapter is a step by step guide of how to put together a political campaign to influence your legislator. In addition to the step by step approach, this chapter is equipped with helpful information on the how to's. How to write a letter to your legislator, how do you communicate face to face with your legislator and how to contact and engage the media are just a few examples.

Chapter 3 of Speak Up! Speak Out! is titled From the Community to the Capitol. This Chapter should be seen as an orientation to the Capitol and Legislative Office Building. People that go to the Capitol or Legislative Office Building often get disempowered because the lingo is difficult to understand. Acronyms, legislative terminology and the structure and format of meetings and voting are daunting for anyone. In this chapter, not only will you be introduced to how to get the Capitol, you will also have access to the glossary of terms and voting procedures needed to help you understand what's going.

In closing, Speak Up! Speak Out! makes it clear. Whether you are interested in one or all of the issues identified, Speak Up! Speak Out! is a road map to justice for all.

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About The Authors

LaResse Harvey, BSW

LaResse Harvey is A Better Way Foundation's African American Policy Director. Ms. Harvey is a formerly incarcerated single mother with over 10 years experience in community activism on issues of a women's right to choose, housing, reentry, drug treatment, and custodial parental rights. Ms. Harvey holds Baccalaureate Degree in Social Work from Saint Joseph College in West Hartford, CT and several Associate Degrees. Her Associate Degrees are Human Services, Liberal Arts and Science, and General Studies.

Recently, Ms. Harvey has conducted strategy caucus at University of Connecticut School of Social Work using "The Arts" as a tool to reduce recidivism and Undoing Racism training at Saint Joseph College with future educators.

Currently Ms. Harvey is organizing residents, business owners, advocates, and social agency staff to address issues of reintegration, housing, homelessness, hunger, employment rights, and child support. She also works with young women ages 10-14 yrs old on racial justice, advocacy, life skills, and public speaking. Ms. Harvey is a participant of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), peer review of grant applications for the FY 2009 Recovery Act Local Youth Mentoring Initiative.

Robert D. Rooks, MSW

Robert Rooks is Associate Director of the Institute of Urban Policy Research at the University of Texas. Along with his focus on ensuring that the Institute's research is driven by community needs, Mr. Rooks is also Community Engagement Director and project manager of [dfwIDEA](http://dfwIDEA.org), an upcoming comprehensive community information resource centered around a website—dfwIDEA.org—which is a next-generation replacement for the Institute's present Dallas Indicators system. Along with his work at IUPR, he is also a Fellow at the Open Society Institute, a private operating and grantmaking foundation which aims to shape public policy to promote democratic governance, human rights, and economic, legal, and social reform.

Prior to joining the Institute, Mr. Rooks served as consultant and advisor to organizations including the Drug Policy Alliance, Open Society Institute and ACLU of Mississippi. Mr. Rooks was also the executive director of A Better Way Foundation in New Haven, CT. He has served as an adjunct professor teaching social movement theory at the University of Connecticut School of Social Work and St. Joseph's College, and has also taught research methods at Central Connecticut State University.

Mr. Rooks received a bachelor's degree in psychology from Prairie View A&M University, where he also minored in Business Administration. He later received his Master of Social Work degree from the University of Connecticut, with a major in Community Organization and a substantive area of Urban Issues.

Speak Up!

Speak Out!



CHAPTER 1



IMPORTANT FACTS YOU NEED TO KNOW

Pathways to Public Safety

“JOBS, EDUCATION and TREATMENT deter crime; INCARCERATION fosters crime.”

According to Dr. Alfred Blumstein a world renowned criminologists, the United States has been on an incarceration binge for the last 30 years in the name of public safety.¹ Connecticut kept pace with national trends and between 1993-2003; the Connecticut prison populations increased 39%.² Unfortunately, Connecticut continues to use law enforcement as the sole tool to accomplish public safety, in the summer of 2006, Governor Rell stated when dispatching state troopers to “hot spots” in Hartford neighborhoods, we need this “to combat violent crime and quality of life issues in the north end of Hartford”.³

When law enforcement is used as the sole effort to address public safety, it misses the mark... a serious assessment of our various sentencing laws to assess which was effective and which ones were counterproductive must be done, Blumstein states.¹ Recent research backs Blumstein’s skepticism of incarceration focused strategies and suggests that high levels of incarceration actually compromises public safety.

“Our research shows that high levels of incarceration concentrated in impoverished communities have a destabilizing effect on community life, so that the most basic underpinnings of informal social control are damaged. This, in turn, reproduces the very dynamics that sustain crime.” Todd Clear and Dana Rose

Efforts that focus on JOBS, TREATMENT, and EDUCATION over INCARCERATION are better investments in our communities and our families agree.

“Libraries that were built for the public, the public, which are the communities, the young people and the old. Every resident should have a library in his or her community. On September 20, 1893, the first library in Hartford was opened. Hartford has had libraries in existence for 115 years and now the city wants to take it away. The library is of the people, for the people, and by the people. Let’s not let them take our privilege and right away. We are the Hartford Public Libraries!”



Carla W. Youth Leader
Blue Hills Civic Association

1. Pew Center: Public Safety Performance Project *The Impact of Incarceration on Crime: Two Experts Weight In* (Washington, Dc).
2. Prison and Jail Overcrowding Commission: *A Report to the Governor and Legislature*. State of Connecticut. 2004.
3. Rell to Perez, May 31, 2006

EDUCATION, JOBS AND TREATMENT NOT INCARCERATION

“Prison expansion is expensive in the costs it imposes on both those who serve time behind bars and in absorbing tax dollars. Policy discussion should be informed by the limitation of the fact that prison expansion, beyond a certain point, will no longer serve any reasonable purpose. It seems that that point has been reached.”¹

- ❖ Over the last 20 years, states across US experienced a 315% percent jump in prison costs²
- ❖ Over the same period, higher education rose just 21 percent²
- ❖ In 1968, CT had 3,145 men and women in custody and a budget of just under \$14 million.³
- ❖ In 2008, CT had 19,438 men and women in custody and a budget of \$691 million.³
- ❖ In 40 years, Connecticut has experienced a 490% increase in prison costs.³
- ❖ More than 88% of CT inmates coming into the system have a substance abuse history.⁴

When will we learn? It's Time to Spend Money on Education, Jobs and Treatment

EDUCATION

- A one year increase in the average year of schooling completed reduces violent crime by almost 30 percent, theft by 20 percent, arson by 13 percent and larceny by about 6%.⁵
- A 5 percent increase in male high school graduation rates would produce an annual savings of almost \$5 billion in crime-related expenses.⁵

JOBS

- From 1992 to 1997, when unemployment rate dropped 33 percent, there was a 30 percent drop in robberies, a 15 percent drop in theft, a 4 percent drop in larceny.⁶
- “For every 1 percent increase in civilian labor force participation, violent crime is expected to decrease by 8.8 incidents per 100,000 people.⁷

TREATMENT

- According a Justice Policy Institute study, states with higher levels of drug incarceration have higher levels of drug use⁸
- According to a federal prisoner intervention study, after treatment, the number of clients selling drugs decreased 78% while those arrested for other crimes declined by 64%.⁹
- Treatment is 10 to 15 times more cost-effective by way of reducing drug-related crime than incarceration.¹⁰

1. Liedka, Raymond V, Anne Morrison Piehl, & Bert Useem. 2006. The Crime-Control Effect of Incarceration: Does Scale Matter? *Criminology & Public Policy*, 5 (2): 245-276.

2. Pew Center on the States: *One in 100: Behind Bars in America 2008*. Washington, DC 2008

3. Connecticut Department of Corrections. *Annual Report From 1968-2008*, Wethersfield, CT 2008

4. Office of National Drug Control Policy. *State of Connecticut Profile of Indicators Report*. Rockville, MD 2008

5. Alliance for Excellent Education. 2006. “Saving Futures, Saving Dollars.” Issue Brief. Online: www.all4ed.org/publications/savingfutures.pdf

6. Raphael and Winter-Ebmer, R. (2001). “Identifying the Effects of Unemployment and Crime.” *Journal of Law and Economics*. Vol. XLIV.

7. Muhlhausen, David B., May 2001. “Do Community 6. Oriented Policing Services grants affect violent crime rates?”

8. Schiraldi, Vincent and Jason Ziedenberg. 2003. “Costs and Benefits? The Impact of Drug Imprisonment in New Jersey.” Washington, D.C.: Justice Policy Institute.

9. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. 1997. “The National Treatment Improvement Evaluation Study: Final Report.” 6. 10. Caulkins, Jonathan P. and C. Peter Rydell, William L. Schwabe, James Chiesa. 1997.

“Mandatory Minimum Drug Sentences: Throwing Away the Key or the Taxpayers’ Money?” Santa Monica, CA: RAND Drug Policy Research Center. http://www.fathom.com/media/PDF/2172_ss.pdf

Public Safety Testimony

January 22, 2008

An Open Letter to Members of the General Assembly

VOTE NO ON THREE STRIKES

Today's Special Session has been called supposedly to pass criminal justice reforms. The Governor and legislative leaders have been very clear that this is in response to last summer's murders in Cheshire. These were horrible, but so were the other dozens of murders across the state last year, of which most victims were people of color, none of which prompted a drastic change in our criminal justice system.

There are many proposals on the table today. The most widely discussed is a modification of the current "Three Strikes." The proposal is to take judicial discretion away and impose an automatic life sentence with parole possible after 30 years. This should be opposed.

The United States leads the world in incarceration rates and Connecticut leads our country in racial disparities in sentencing and incarceration rates. Today's proposals will put more people of color, poor people, and those from other disenfranchised communities in prison for longer periods of time. We will be continuing an historical path of repression against vulnerable communities. Connecticut can and must do better.

A statewide conference held last week was attended by several legislators and Commissioner Lantz, all proclaiming that this is "The Year of Re-Entry." Where are these proposals? Connecticut needs education, employment and housing for re-entry, not increased GPS tracking. We need to address addiction as a health issue and not as a crime. We need to look at alternatives to incarceration.

It's irresponsible to pass policies based on one tragedy. Passing the proposed legislation sends a message that white suburbanites are more valuable than people of color. The General Assembly should not pass a revised "three strikes" or any legislation that will imprison more people.

Signed,

A Better Way Foundation	New Britain Spanish Speaking Center.
American Friends Service Committee	New Haven Coalition to End the Parole Ban
Blue Hills Civic Association	New Haven Family Alliance
Citizens for Action New Britain	North Hartford Strategic Network, Inc.
Clean Slate Committee	November Coalition
Coalition for People, New Haven	Palestinian American Congress, CT Chapter
CT Alliance	People Against Injustice
CT Center for a New Economy	People of Faith
CT Coalition for Peace and Justice	Students for a Sensible Drug Policy
CT Network to Abolish the Death Penalty	University of Hartford, Center for Social Research
CT TransAdvocacy	Vecinos Unidos, Hartford
Families Moving Forward	Voices of Freedom, Bridgeport
Hartford Catholic Worker	Wally Lamb, author
Hope Out Loud	Wesleyan Prisoner Resource and Education Project
Middle East Crisis Committee, New Haven	Yale NAACP

Three Strikes Laws: Unintended harsher impact on communities of color, women and children.

At the start of the 1990s, the U.S. had **more Black men** (between the ages of 20 and 29) under the control of the nation's criminal justice system than the total number in college.

(<http://www.drugwarfacts.org/racepris.htm>)

Blacks are 12 times more likely to be imprisoned than Whites in CT. Hispanics are 6.6 times more likely to be imprisoned than Whites in CT. (Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2005)

Most illicit drug users are White. In 2004, **White people represented 88% of CT's drug-induced overdose deaths. Yet 58% of those in state prisons for drug felonies are Black.** Among persons convicted of drug felonies in state courts, Whites were less likely than Blacks to be sent to prison, 33% vs. 51%. (<http://www.abwf-ct.org/schoolzonemaps.pdf>)
(<http://www.drugwarfacts.org/racepris.htm>)

The system is inherently racist. A three-strikes law will **unfairly** incarcerate more Black and Hispanic people.

Over two-thirds of incarcerated women have **children** under the age of 18, and **two thirds of those mothers were the primary caretaker.** 25% of incarcerated women have had a **child** within the last year. The number of women imprisoned in the United States grew last year at a rate of more than 1.5 times the rate of growth for men. We must think how this affects families and communities!

(www.wpaonline.org)

80% of incarcerated women have experienced sexual or physical abuse prior to being incarcerated. Women need healing and counseling, but instead they are re-traumatized.

(www.alternet.org/story/73784/)

We all want to make Connecticut safer.

Harsher sentencing laws and three-strikes laws have **not** been proven to reduce violent crime, but they have been shown to increase costs. Under its three-strikes law, California has a prison budget that is running neck and neck with the budget for higher education and will soon overtake it, **with an expected rate of growth of nine percent per year.** (Sterngold, James. "Prisons' Budget to Trump Colleges." *San Francisco Chronicle*, May 21, 2007)
The most successful campaign to reduce violent crime in American history, the "**Boston Miracle**," reduced murders by 77% in seven years - and experienced **a year of no youth homicides** - by empowering local ministers and social workers to give input on sentencing and prosecution. In other words, Boston **increased discretion** in sentencing and prosecution, while three-strikes laws actually take away discretion.

(<http://www.bostoninnovation.org/bostoninnovation/communitySafety.htm>)

Public Safety Personal Story



"I can only imagine how hard it must be for African American Males to gain adequate employment once a felony is on their record. Many young men that I know tell me that returning to the "streets" is all they can do. You must admit it can be extremely discouraging to be continuously turned down because one you are an African American and two you have a felony conviction. Unless change starts from the top, people will continue to get away

with racism and unjust treatment of African Americans in Connecticut. The state does not do enough to assure that one is not discriminated against because of their race and/or their ability to pass a background check. Sure there are certain charges that should bar some from working with children etc. I believe that when a background check is conducted if the conviction does not directly fall in line with the Job applied for, that information should not be given. It is a hindrance to my community.

I have changed my life for the better and live my life for God as a Devout Christian, Community Leader and Activist and none of this matters when a background check is done to consider me for employment. I happen to be one of the Blessed one's. I am employed at a job that I am over qualified, after searching for a year. . I love my job, but I am still unequally paid for the position I hold. Not wanting to loose my job I keep quiet about the situation, because I have to provide for my child. I have witnessed so many of my peers go in and out of DOC with out ever being able to use the skills they acquire when they are able to get into one of the Vocational Classes. The Pardons Process is almost impossible for a minority. Also there are no accommodations made to those who do not have transportation to make it all the way to Enfield. When you are thinking of passing laws are you even thinking of how the impact will be on low-income and Minority communities? Thank you.

Nikki B. – New Haven, CT

Juvenile Justice, Detention and Race

According to the Annie E. Case Foundation website, a large percentage of youth that fall into the juvenile justice system disproportionately come from impoverished single-parent homes located in disinvested neighborhoods and have high rates of learning disabilities, mental health, and substance abuse problems.¹ Henry Giroux states in his article about Disappearing youth states, *“Instead of providing a decent education to poor young people, American society offers them the growing potential of being incarcerated....he goes on to say that we spend three times more on each incarcerated citizen than on each public school pupil.”*²

Overrepresentation of racial and ethnic minority in juvenile facilities cannot be explained by differences in delinquent behavior across groups

In 2005-2006, Black and Hispanic juveniles charged with a non-Serious Juvenile Offense were more likely to be referred to court than were White juveniles. Black juveniles charged with non-SJO felonies and misdemeanors were more likely than White juveniles to be placed in secure holding.³

“A seismic change has taken place in which youth are now being framed as both a generation of suspects and a threat to public life”²

by Giroux

Unfortunately, Connecticut residents see the same national trend as discussed by Giroux. Better services to help youth are frequent cries by many parents, teachers and youth. These voices are best captured by Ms. Idella, a neighborhood mom in the Northend of Hartford, account of her experience.

“One day I just looked up and all those little boys on our street was gone... I know they don't lock up those white people's kids like that. Whether it be my *boys (young black men in Northend of Hartford)* or our babies, they go to prison.” Idella



1. The Casey Foundation's Investment in Juvenile Justice: <http://www.aecf.org/Home/OurWork/JuvenileJustice/JuvenileJusticeOverview.aspx>
2. Giroux H.A, (2004) Class Casualties: Disappearing Youth in the Age of George W. Bush, Workplace., 6. 1-24
3. Citation: Richetelli, D.M, Hartstone, E. C. & Murphy, K.L. A Second Reassessment of Disproportionate Minority Contact in Connecticut's Juvenile Justice System (2009) State of Connecticut, Office of Policy Management.

JUVENILE JUSTICE FACTS

Between 1960 and 2005, juvenile court delinquency caseloads increased more than 300%¹

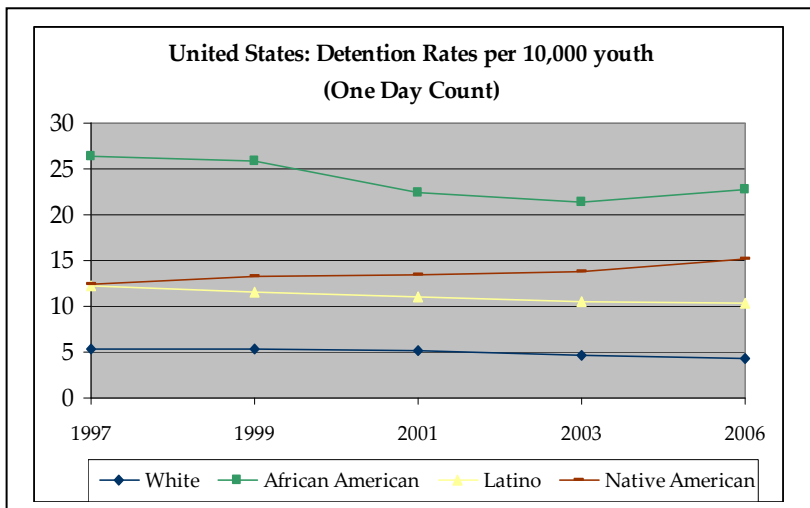
Between 1985 and 2005, case rates more than doubled for drug law violations (110%)¹

Of the 1,697,900 delinquency cases processed in 2005, 57% involved youth younger than 16, 27% involved females, and 64% involved white youth.¹

According to the most recent data, just 24% of incarcerated youth nationwide are guilty of violent felonies; 45% are guilty only probation violations; misdemeanors; or low-level charges unrelated to violence, weapons, or drug trafficking.¹

Although whites had significantly more delinquency cases, a national “one-day count” of the population in juvenile detention facilities from 1997-2006 found that youth of color were consistently significantly overrepresented. In 2006:

- For every 10,000 White youth, 4 were in detention.²
- For every 10,000 African American youth, 23 were in detention.²
- For every 10,000 Latino youth, 10 were in detention.²
- For every 10,000 Native American youth, 15 were in detention.²



In 2003, 38% of the U.S. youth population (ages 10-17) was made

up of youth of color. Yet youth of color made up 65% of the secure detention population.²

Disparities in Connecticut are consistent with national trend

- Connecticut has an estimated minority youth population of 26%.³
- In 1997, minority youth comprised 83% of commitments to public facilities and 77% of detention placements.³
- Statewide, 160 White youth were in residential placement on October 29, 1997 for every 100,000 youths in the population compared to 2,225 African-American youth, 1,276 Hispanic, and 90 Asian youth.³

National Data on Youth Behavior

According to the 2007 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance, for 9th-12th graders, White, Black and Hispanic Youth are equally likely to have: Carried a weapon in past 30 days (e.g., a gun, knife, or club) ---White (18.2%), Hispanic (18.5%), and Black (17.2%).⁴

1. National Center for Juvenile Justice: National Estimates of Delinquency Cases. Juvenile Court Statistics 2005

2. Fact Sheet: Books Not Bars. <http://www.ellabakercenter.org/page.php?pageid=18&contentid=5>

3. Juvenile Offenders and Victims: 1999 National Report. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (1999) and A Reassessment of Minority Overrepresentation in Connecticut's Juvenile Justice System

4. Citation: CDC. Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance — United States, 2007. Morbidity & Mortality Weekly Report 2008; 57(SS-4):1-131.

Juvenile Justice Testimony

Proposed Bill No. 5230

AN ACT CONCERNING A PILOT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE HOUSING AND SERVICES FOR TRANSITIONING YOUNG ADULTS.

I want to thank the committee on Human Services, Representative Villano and Representative Walker for lifting up this Bill.

My name is Jody Wynn Rodiger of Manchester, CT and I support Bill 5230. I was raised as an advocate for food and shelter. I was trained to always think outside of the box for good innovative ways to build better communities and serve all people in need. Now I serve as a board member on MISH and MANA – Manchester Initiative for Supportive Housing and Manchester Area Network on AIDS. I also support MACC the Manchester Shelter. In the past couple of years the funding has been cut to crucial programs that support individuals and families in need.

Growing up in a family where several of my family members suffer with depression and alcoholism. I learned at an early age that there must be a better way to help people with mental illness. My mother supported a college friend as she suffered with mental illness and was institutionalized. In my early years I watched my mother's sadness as she advocated for her friend to find a better way and reunite her with her daughter.

Today I have a dear wonderful friend who has nurtured, supported and stood by her son now in his mid 40's throughout his life. The up's and down's of regulating his meds, times where he disappears off the face of the planet where all she can do is pray for news of his safety.

The solutions for supportive housing to help the mentally ill are far far below what are required to in CT and the residential programs for our youth at risk are even scarcer. In the state of CT the homeless situation continues to escalate with all organizations reporting in numbers of individuals and families in need rising to alarming levels! We must think proactively to assist our youth with mental illness rise to a better and healthier life. The alternative is SCAREY. More broken adults, greater drain on taxpayers and families suffering with broken hearts and limited resources to help their children.

I support this bill to mandate our state agencies to move forward with good solutions to help heal our youth. In the last 10 years the numbers of youth with Mental Illness has risen at an alarming rate! That indicates that the numbers of Homeless will increase thus the number of visits to the Emergency Rooms will increase and the number of people with mental illness with be jailed needlessly.

We have to ACT NOW to save our communities and build better and stronger LIVES for all citizens of this wonderful nation we call home.

Thank you. Jody Wynn Rodiger, 71 Church Street, Manchester, CT 06040

Drug Policy

Drug policies are 40 year state and national laws designed to stop the sell, use, health related risk and transportation of illegal drugs. According to Stephen Magura in his article, Point of View, **“The assumption behind the “War on Drugs” is that the highly “controlled” drugs are so dangerous that they must be suppressed at all costs”**.¹

Unfortunately, efforts to stop drugs have done little to decrease drug use, nationally and in Connecticut. According to 2004-2005 data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), approximately (9%) of Connecticut citizens (ages 12 or older) reported past month use of an illicit drug. In the same study, 40% of Connecticut high school students in 2005 reported using marijuana at least once in their lifetime.²

The War On Drugs is not being Won!

"Our current policy mix is not working the way we want it to....The ease with which drugs can be obtained, the price, the number of people using drugs, the violence on the border all show that. We need to rethink our responses to the health effects, the economic impacts, and the effect on crime. We need to rethink our approach to the supply and demand of drugs," Senator Jim Webb of Virginia.³

So Now What?

Late Economist and Nobel Prize winner Milton Friedman said in referencing what would a policy without the war on drugs look like, he said, “I see America with half the number of prisons, half the number of prisoners, ten thousand fewer homicides a year, inner cities in which there's a chance for these poor people to live without being afraid for their lives, citizens who might be respectable who are now addicts not being subject to becoming criminals in order to get their drug, being able to get drugs for which they're sure of the quality. You know, the same thing happened under prohibition of alcohol as is happening now.”⁴



“I spent most of my adult life watching my neighborhood become self-destructive behind drugs. Now most of the Black men are gone and most of the mothers are on drugs. Who’s helping these kids, when you keep locking up their parent for non-violence?” Anonymous CT Resident

1. Magura S. (2007). A point of view. Drug prohibition and the treatment system: Perfect together. *Substance Use & Misuse*, 42(4): 495-501.

2. Office of National Drug Policy Control Report: Policy Information Clearinghouse State of Connecticut Profile of Drug Indicators January 2008: www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/statelocal/CT/ct.pdf

3. Webb, Jim (2008) [Public Comments at Joint Committee Hearing *Illegal Drugs: Economic Impact, Societal Costs, and Policy Responses*]

4. Friedman, M. (1991). [Interview with Randy Page, host of America’s Drug Forum]. A National Public Affairs Talk Show Retrieved from Lindensmith Library website

DRUG POLICY FACTS

Brief National History

- *Harrison Act of 1914*, forced purveyors of opium and cocaine to register with the government,
- *Marihuana Tax Act of 1937*. Commercial dealers were taxed at a low flat rate. Minor violations could result in a fine of up to \$2000 and five years' imprisonment
- *Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act of 1970*. This act includes the Controlled Substances Act, which establishes five "schedule

Today

- An estimated 112,085,000 Americans aged 12 or over (46.1% of the US population aged 12 and over) report having used an illicit drug at least once in their lifetimes
- (9%) of Connecticut citizens (ages 12 or older) reported past month use of an illicit drug
- 88% of Connecticut inmates have a history of drug use
- US market for illegal drugs is \$60 billion is for regulating drugs based on their medicinal value and potential for addiction
- *Nixon declared drugs to be 'Public Enemy Number One' in 1971* and created SAODAP to deal with the drug issue
- *USA Anti Drug Abuse Act of 1986*. Most significant for its introduction of mandatory minimum sentences. * **Connecticut followed suite with mandatory minimums**

Brief Connecticut History

- 1981 Connecticut shifted from indeterminate sentencing to mandatory minimums
- 1987 During a special session to deal with the "crack epidemic" issue, General Assembly enacted a series of mandatory minimum sentencing laws for drug offenses
- In 2005, Connecticut eliminated its disparity between Crack and Powder Cocaine

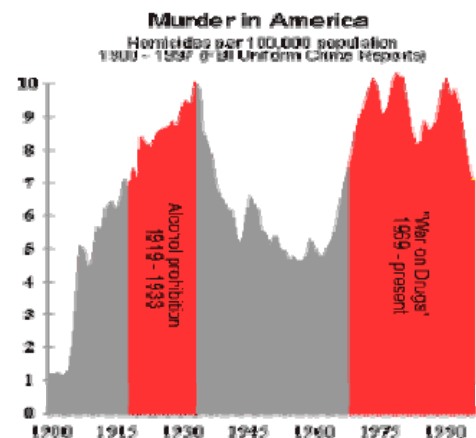
Impact

- More than one in every 100 adults in America are in jail or prison
- Someone is arrested for a marijuana offense every 36 seconds
- In 1987, the states collectively spent \$10.6 billion of their general funds on corrections. In 2007, they spent more than \$44 billion, a 315 percent jump,
- Connecticut increase its prison budget by 400% in 40 years

➤ In 1933 the homicide rate peaked at 9.7 per 100,000 people, which was the year that alcohol prohibition was finally repealed. In 1980, the homicide rate peaked again at 10 per 100,000 in relation to the war on drugs.

Solutions

- \$1 spent on treatment will achieve the same reduction of flow of cocaine as \$7.3 spent on enforcement.
- Regulation drugs would produce \$45 billion a year



Source: Rydell, C. P., Caulkins, J. P., & Everingham, S. S. (1996). *Enforcement or treatment? Modeling the relative efficacy of alternative for controlling cocaine*. Operations Research (RAND), 44(5), 687-695.

Source: US Census Data and FBI Uniform Crime Reports.

89% of marijuana arrests are for marijuana possession — not for sale or manufacture.

Source: Becker, Gary and Murphy, Kevin. *Battle Tactics: The Economics of the War on Drugs*, Capital Ideas, Selected Papers On Price Theory. The University of Chicago Graduate School of Business. May 2005

Source:

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, US Department of Health and Human Services, 2005 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Tables (Rockville, MD: Office of Applied Studies, Sept. 2006), Tables 1.1A and 1.1B.

Drug Policy Testimony

Dawn Fuller-Ball Palliative Marijuana Testimony
March 23, 2007

Judiciary Public Hearing

My name is Dawn Fuller-Ball, President of A Better Way Foundation and I was a caretaker for 5 years to Michael, who has renal failure. Renal failure refers to the loss of at least 90% kidney function and required Michael to have dialysis treatment 4 hours per day, 3 days per week. Dialysis is not a cure, rather a life-sustaining treatment. There is only one way someone with renal failure can live without dialysis – a successful kidney transplant. Dialysis replicates the kidney's function by cleaning the blood and removing fluid from the body. As a result, Michael, like most renal patients, experienced migraines, cramping (they say it's worse than labor), fatigue, loss of appetite, and nausea. In order to alleviate some of the symptoms of the life-sustaining dialysis, Michael began smoking marijuana. Michael is one of the few people I've ever met that tells his doctor everything. He told his doctor he was smoking marijuana, which helped alleviate most of the symptoms. His doctor told him he didn't see any harm in using the marijuana, but made it clear that he could neither prescribe the marijuana nor officially condone the use of marijuana or risk losing his license.

Michael, like most Black men, was stopped by police a number of times for driving while Black "DWB". Inevitably, on some of those occasions he was either in possession of marijuana and/or marijuana paraphernalia. But as soon as he showed the police the site where he was hooked up to the dialysis machines, so they would not rupture his shunt (plastic tube placed intravenously for easier access to vein for dialysis) while handcuffing him, he was released on the spot. The police did not want the hassle of special handling then arranging for his life saving dialysis treatment just for a small amount of marijuana. Michael was one of the lucky ones in that respect.

The irony of Michael's predicament is while public safety was the rationale for detaining him the police department's unwillingness to provide for Michael's personal safety was the only thing that helped him avoid a drug charge. I and Michael's story is not unique. That's why A Better Way Foundation and I as a resident are supporting HB 6715: AN Act Concerning Palliative Marijuana.

This bill does two important things: It offers some protection for patients and caregivers especially those who resident in urban areas of CT; and it enables a judge to distinguish between a recreational user and a patient/caregiver in court.

There will be testimony for both pros and cons of the medical use of marijuana. I hope you will realize that the people that need this bill the most are the people of color who live in the urban areas who are either patients or caregivers. Those are the people most likely to be stopped and searched and found with the marijuana substance or the paraphernalia that sick people need. Don't deny them the ability to alleviate symptoms that affect a patient's quality of life.

Drug Policy Personal Story

The “Ice Cream Truck”

by Dr. S

The “ice cream truck” will come round
your neighborhood and all the kids on
the block will hide.

In the wintertime,
you’ll freeze if you held up inside, that’s
why they call it the “Ice Cream Truck.”

It’ll take you to the bullpen,
Twenty men crowded, ankle-deep
In stinkin’ garbage, for 48 hours.
They’ll break you down, man.
That’s what they fittin’ to do,
Break you down.

So when the lawyers threaten you with 20 years
On three counts
—possession with intent to sell,
Within fifteen-hundred feet of a school,
And weapons’ possession---
You accept a three-year sentence
without ever going to trial.

Harm Reduction is Public Health

Harm reduction is an approach to the drug issue that focuses on the effects of drug use on the individual, the community and society as a whole. It is concerned with reducing the harmful consequences of drug use rather than targeting those who use drugs. Harm reduction accepts that some people cannot or will not give up drugs, especially in the short term, and looks for ways to keep users and their communities healthy and safe by reducing the harmful consequences of drug use.¹ Unfortunately, the federal government along with many states continue to hinder proven strategies aimed to reduce HIV transmission and overdose deaths. In 2005, without any evidence to prove its position, the American Government opposed any program that appeared to “condone the continued use of drugs”.

“Over the last decade, governmental attempts to enforce prohibition of controlled substances have been intensified.”

By Alan Marlatt

Although Connecticut was one of the first states in the country to support clean needles reforms, families in Connecticut believe more can be done to meet people at their need and offer help regardless of whether they use drugs or not....

Connecticut Overdose Stats

- White residents accounted for 88% of all overdose deaths from 1996-1998.⁴
- White females account for 90% of all female overdose deaths from 1996-1998.⁴



“ This hits home for me. 2yrs ago my cousin who I raised for 17yrs OD on this stuff (heroin) and thought he could fly. He jumped off my balcony one night and died but not instantly. I relive that night I found him in the rain/thunderstorm at 1:15am laying on the ground. If there is any HOPE to prevent more individuals from OD then sign me up. May someone’s life be saved and prevent a loved one from going through the agony of finding, losing another family member, friend, loved one or even a neighbor.”

Yvette, Bristol-CT

1. Harm Reduction Fact Sheet: HIV/AIDS, Injection Drug Use, Harm Reduction and Development 2002. http://www.stopaidsnow.ca/content/pub_printerfriendly.cfm?PubID=11&CAT=9&lang=e
2. Marlatt G.A., Harm Reduction: Pragmatic Strategies for Managing High-Risk Behaviors. Guilford Press, 2002
3. Photo www.medicalassistedtreatment.org
4. Connecticut Department of Public Health. To The General Assembly: A Report on fatal and non fatal drug overdoses in CT: 2004

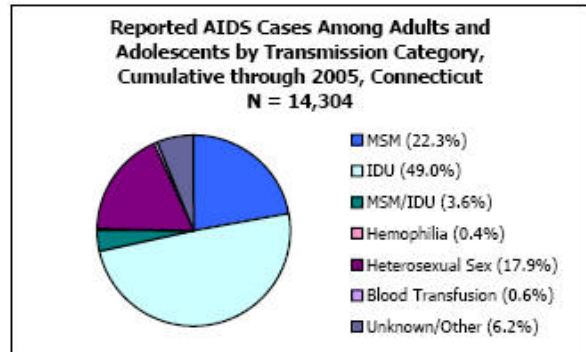
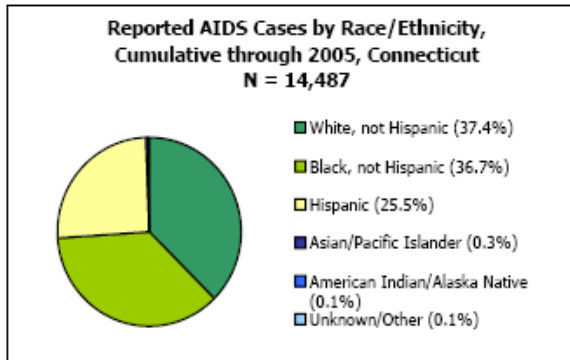
JUST THE FACTS

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), between 1999 and 2004, the number of overdose deaths in the United States rose 77 percent, to almost 20,000.¹

The number of Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) cases in the United States increased by 10 percent in females and 7 percent in males between 2000 and 2004.¹

In 2005, Connecticut: HIV/AIDS Cases

- With Blacks only 8.7% of the population, they account for 36.7% of AIDS cases.²
- IDUs account 49% of all AIDS cases.²



Harm Reduction: The Next Step

- 47% Edmontonians support safe-injection site for intravenous drug users.⁴
- Published in a London-based medical journal, Insite (safe injection site) has resulted in a 30% increase in the use of detoxification programs such as methadone, addiction counseling, or participation in Narcotics Anonymous.⁴
- The San Francisco Chronicle reported a push for a legal center where intravenous drug users can receive free needles and consume drugs in a safe environment....momentum for such a center seems to be gaining by those who say it will help stop the spread of HIV and hepatitis C, prevent deaths from drug overdoses and keep dirty needles off city streets.³

Connecticut Department of Public Health HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program
Connecticut AIDS Cases by Year of Report, Sex, Race, and Risk/Mode of Transmission
in Percent of Total for the Category
(1980 - December 31, 2008)

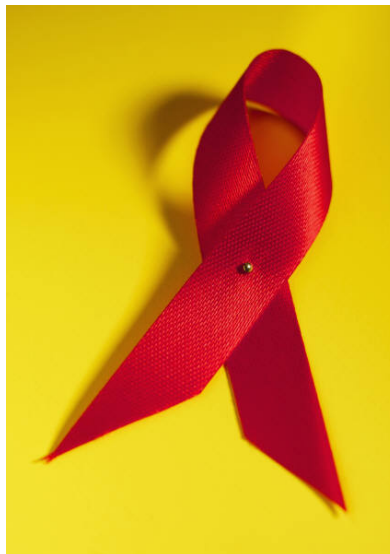
Report Year	Total Number	Sex		Race/Ethnicity				Risk/Mode of Transmission					
		Male	Female	White	Black	Hispanic	Other	IDU	MSM	MSM/IDU	Hetero	Pedi	Oth/Unk
		% of Total	% of Total	% of Total	% of Total	% of Total	% of Total	% of Total	% of Total	% of Total	% of Total	% of Total	% of Total
1980-1998	10,097	74.9	25.1	36.7	40.0	22.8	0.5	51.3	24.1	3.8	15.8	1.8	3.3
1999	580	68.6	31.4	40.2	30.7	28.1	1.0	43.4	20.9	1.4	24.7	1.6	8.1
2000	580	62.6	37.4	36.9	32.6	30.0	0.5	46.2	15.9	1.9	25.7	0.9	9.5
2001	553	64.6	35.4	46.8	25.7	26.8	0.7	51.9	17.2	2.4	21.7	0.2	6.7
2002	592	69.4	30.6	41.0	26.9	31.6	0.5	45.3	18.8	1.5	22.1	0.5	11.8
2003	688	66.1	33.9	34.6	26.2	38.8	0.4	50.4	16.4	1.7	21.8	0.4	9.2
2004	671	61.4	38.6	35.2	30.3	34.3	0.3	41.1	20.1	1.8	23.0	0.3	13.7
2005	569	64.9	35.1	34.3	32.3	32.9	0.5	39.7	17.6	2.3	25.5	1.4	13.5
2006	508	64.0	36.0	29.1	30.9	39.6	0.4	33.1	17.7	1.6	21.7	1.0	25.0
2007	418	70.1	29.9	32.3	32.8	33.3	1.7	29.9	21.1	1.2	17.0	1.2	29.7
2008	358	67.3	32.7	26.5	35.2	35.5	2.8	26.0	15.4	2.2	19.8	2.0	34.6
Total	15,614	71.7	28.3	36.5	36.5	26.4	0.6	48.0	22.0	3.1	18.2	1.4	7.3

1. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Center for Health Statistics CDC/Wonder, *Compressed Mortality*. ICD-10 codes W32-34; X40-X44; X72-74; X93-95; Y22-24, 1999-2005 <<http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/>>
2. Connecticut Department of Public Health (2007) Epidemiologic Profile of HIV/AIDS in Connecticut. Hartford, CT
3. Harm Reduction Fact Sheet: <http://www.csdp.org/news/news/harmreduction.htm>
4. Graph: Connecticut Department of Public Health HIV/AIDS Surveillance Program 1 Total HIV/AIDS Cases by Sex, Race, and Risk/Mode of Transmission (1980 -December 31, 2008) http://www.ct.gov/dph/lib/dph/aids_and_chronic/surveillance/statewide/ct_aids_trends_table.pdf

Harm Reduction Public Health Personal Story

"After working in a facility that followed the harm reduction philosophy the benefits have become obvious. It is unfortunate that we will never live in a drug free society, so why punish individuals instead of helping them? in my case, instead of putting an HIV+ individual in the streets for having a dirty urine or violating a drug policy, we would instead make sure that individual receives treatment such as rehab and therapy for his/her addiction. By ensuring the individual is receiving treatment and not on the street we are also reducing the spread of HIV. Harm Reduction can be applied to many situations and involve different addictions, from heroin addiction, to gambling, to cigarette smoking."

Sandra, Windsor-CT



Incarceration: A Mental Health Crisis

“Mismanaging Options and Failed Solutions”

According to Ohio Governor Ted Strickland *"Inmates, families, guards, judges, prosecutors and police are in unique agreement that our broken system of punting the most seriously mentally ill to the criminal justice system must be fixed."*

Stories from the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program paint multiple pictures of the same problem:

A police officer returns countless times to a house or street corner in response to a call for assistance involving the same person with a history of mental illness; each time, the officer is unable to link the person to treatment.

Month after month, a prosecutor charges the same person with committing a different public nuisance crime, and, each time, the defendant with mental illness pleads guilty to time served.

A parole officer already struggling with an overwhelming caseload is assigned an individual with mental illness released from prison; the officer receives only limited support from the community-based mental health program. The parolee is rearrested and returned to prison when he commits a new crime—urinating on a street corner and making lewd gestures to frightened people passing by—displaying in public the symptoms of his untreated mental illness.

Jail and prison administrators watch their systems swell with these individuals, who spin through the revolving door of the institution. Corrections officials' job is to keep these inmates alive, even if that means isolating them in administrative segregation with no outside contact for weeks on end. When the release date comes around, freedom for many prisoners is only temporary, unless they are among the few for whom reentry has meant planning and linkage with community supports.²

Unfortunately, some Connecticut lawmakers continue to advocate for a 1200 bed mental health prison facility that will continue to house people with mental health illnesses as prisoners...

Connecticut families believe different, *"Connecticut's prisons have an approximate 20% mental health population. This population needs a treatment plan that is not associated with the Department of Correction."* says LaResse Harvey, Policy Director of A Better Way Foundation. A recent trend among members in congress agrees:

“People with mental illness are falling through the cracks of this country’s social safety net and are landing in the criminal justice system at an alarming rate.” Consensus Project Report

1. U.S. Congress. **House Judiciary Committee on Crime**. "Holds Hearing on the Impact of Mentally Ill on Criminal Justice System." (Date: 9/21/00).
2. Justice Mental Health and Addiction Program Report: 2002. http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/pdf/MIO_Program.pdf.
3. Consensus Project Report : http://consensusproject.org/the_report/toc/executive-summary

FACT SHEET: INCARCERATING THE MENTALLY ILL

National Stats:

- Out of the 10 million arrested into U.S. jails a year; people with serious mental illness appears three to four times higher in those arrested than in the general population.²

At midyear 2005, more than half of all prison and jail inmates had a mental health problem.²

- 56% of State prisoners
- 45% of Federal prisoners
- 64% of jail inmates

Mental Health problems more common among female inmates

- An estimated 73% of females in State prisons, compared to 55% of male inmates, had a mental health problem.²

Mental Illness is overwhelmingly represented in the Juvenile Population

- 65%-70% of youth in the juvenile justice system meet criteria for a diagnosable mental health disorder.²

Connecticut Stats:

- 3,072 prisoners with mental illnesses -- a 40% increase in four years.³
- 80% of DOC prisoners have a history with drug use.³

Connecticut Efforts Not Enough

- A recent poll stated: 89 % of Connecticut residents believed the state should send people convicted of nonviolent crimes that have mental illness to treatment instead of prison in order to reduce prison crowding.⁴
- Gov. Rell has called for decarceration of some 1,200 people who she says can be safely released to halfway houses and other community programs.⁴



1. U.S. Department of Justice. Mental Health Problems of Prison and Jail Inmates. (2006): Bureau of Justice Statistics Washington, DC
2. Connecticut Mental Health Cabinet Report (2004)Hartford, CT
3. Greene, J. (2006) Diversion Works: *How* Connecticut can downsize prisons, improve public safety and save money. Justice Strategies Report. Hartford, CT

Speak Up!

Speak Out!

CONNECTICU

CHAPTER 2

ADVOCACY



Tool Kit in action: Connecticut Residents showing off their advocacy skills.

TOOL KIT

How A Bill Becomes A Law In Connecticut



Proposed bill



Bill is sent to the clerk of the House of Representatives for numbering.



Bill title, number and sponsors are printed in the House and Senate Journals.



Bill is sent to the appropriate joint standing committee of the General Assembly, depending on the bill's subject matter.



Bill requiring action by another committee is referred to that committee, e.g. a bill requiring expenditure is referred to the Appropriations Committee.



Committee may report the bill favorably, defeat the bill or issue no report (the bill fails).



Committee holds public hearings for the public, state agency representatives and legislators on all bills it wishes to consider.



Committee may:
 1. have the bill drafted in legal language;
 2. combine it with other bills and have it drafted as a committee bill;
 3. refer the bill to another committee;
 or 4. take no action, so the bill fails. The committee may also write a new "raised" committee bill.



After leaving the last committee, the bill is sent to the Legislative Commissioners' Office to be checked for constitutionality and consistency with other law.



The Office of Fiscal Analysis adds an estimate of the bill's cost. The Office of Legislative Research adds a "plain English" explanation of the bill.



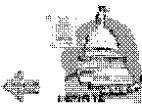
Clerk assigns the bill a calendar number.



Final printing of bill.



Other house votes on the bill.



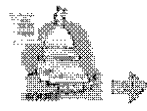
A "yes" vote sends the bill to the other house for placement on calendar.



Vote on bill.



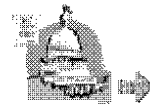
Debate and amendments in the house of origin. House may send the bill to another committee before voting.



Bill returned to first house for concurrence if amended by second house. If not amended, bill is sent to the governor. If House and Senate cannot agree, the bill is sent to a joint conference committee.



If the conference committee reaches agreement, a report is sent to both houses.



If one or both houses reject the changes, the bill fails.



If both houses pass the bill, it is sent to the governor. Governor can
 1. sign the bill.
 2. veto it, or
 3. take no action.



The bill becomes law if:
 1. the governor signs it;
 2. the governor fails to sign within 5 days during the legislative session or 15 days after adjournment;
 3. the vetoed bill is re-passed in each house by a 2/3 vote of the elected membership.



Vetoed bill can be reconsidered by both houses.



If governor vetoes, the bill is returned to the house in which it originated.

Becoming an Effective Legislative Advocate: 9 Steps To Legislative Advocacy

A Toolkit for Everyday People

Step 1. Develop your understanding of the problem.

It's not hard to drive down an urban neighborhood street and see problems all around us. We see things from stray dogs, open air drug dealing, policy abuse, vandalism and many more... Although these problems people in urban communities face are real, you can't just go to the legislature and say, "I saw a stray dog in my neighborhood and I want you to put in a bill to do something about it". Bringing a problem to a legislator without a careful analysis of the root cause of the problem will be a waste of your time and your legislator. Most importantly, you will never get your issue solved.

Basically, step 1 is a research step. What's often not immediately apparent when we see problems are why these problems exist, how serious these problems are and what it will take to fix them. Research can be an excellent tool to help you understand the problem and the environment that causes or perpetuates it. In many cases, the best way to organize your research is by putting together a Fact Sheet. Fact Sheets help inform you on the depths of your problem, they can also be key in identifying who else is experiencing the problems, who's responsible for the problem and who can successfully address the problem. Knowing the ins and out of your issue is key to any legislative advocacy effort and your legislative campaign will live or die based on your understanding of the problem.

**For Starters: You can gather information from a number of places: the library, internet, as well as the institution responsible for the problems, all are good places to start. Fact sheets should be no more than 1 page front and back and written in plain English.*

Step 2. Identify what the Legislature can do to solve your problem...can the Legislature get you the change you seek.

As part of your ongoing research about your problem, do a power analysis of who is responsible for the problem and who can help you solve the problem. They may not always be the same. An understanding of these elements is critical to any civic advocacy effort. You don't want to put 3 months of work into changing a problem and find out the person you've been talking to cannot get you what you want. Always negotiate with who can get you what you want. It will be important for future advocacy efforts to understand what entity as well as individual(s) inside

the entity is responsible for addressing the problem. Once you determine the legislature is key to helping you solve your problem, develop a power analysis that clearly explains what the legislature can do to solve your problem and write up the solution in the form of legislative bill language.

**Try your best to get an organizational flow chart of who is responsible for hiring and firing and how to best get the attention of those responsible for your problem.*

Step 3. Determine who all is impacted by this issue and at multiple levels...i.e., youth, families, communities are all impacted by high rates of high school drop outs.

It is important always build your network to meet the demands of your legislative advocacy effort. One way to do that is to identify key allies and partners. A way to identify allies is to identify who else is being impacted by the problem and work to develop collaborations and partnerships with those individuals around addressing the problem.

EXAMPLE:

1. What is the problem(s): high school drop outs
2. Who all are impacted: youth, families, schools, communities, business

By doing your homework on who else is responsible in building the necessary alliances to bring attention to the issue, you not only grow your advocacy effort, you increase your ability to address reach as many legislators as possible.

**Correctly identifying who is also impacted by your issue/concern could help you build a solid coalition of people that are directly affected by your issue who shares your concerns and desires change. Look to those you identify to work with you on public event, meetings with those that can get you what you want, the media and contacting your legislator etc.*

Step 4. Identify how multiple audiences perceive your problem or what they know about the problem so you can craft an appropriate public perception campaign.

Groups with successful advocacy efforts understand that influencing multiple audiences is key to addressing any public issue or concern and putting pressure on your legislator. The public perception battle is an important and often undervalued aspect of legislative advocacy. Understanding how multiple audiences perceive your issue will help you present your issue and personal stories in ways to gain

favor among the public at large. If you get the public on your side, legislators must follow.

**Today's world of blogs are helpful tools to gauge an issue or concern. Nearly every article written is followed by blogging by the public. Other ways to check the pulse of the public includes: Opinions polls, focus groups, community surveys or just go out and talk to people. Always have a sense of how the public views your issue.*

Step 5. Do analyses on how multiple audiences get information about your issue?

In developing a public perception and media strategy, it will be important to infuse your concepts and ideas into every communication channel currently informing residents and legislators about your issue or problem. Using research and personal stories go a long way in communicating the need to address your issue but they do nothing if people are not being reached and reached often.

**Establish good relationships with local media outlets such as newspaper, radio stations, blogs as well as social organizations and churches so that they can help you get the word out.*

6. Developing your campaign.

Develop a campaign based on the resources you have, bring attention to your issue and hold elected officials accountable. Your campaign should be designed to escalate based on the level of resistance you get from elected officials.

Some key pieces to include are: developing a campaign include: knowing your mission, vision and goals, putting your facts in order on fact sheets or in ways that legislators can easily understand, develop and execute a media and communications strategy, identify and work with allies and partners, public education strategies including community meetings etc...and be ready to take that fight to legislators in their home district.

7. Build a database and website

Establish a database that will inform your network of the status of you or your organizations efforts and when it's time to take collective action and mobilize people to go the capital. Think of your website as your 24 hour marketer that communicates what you want communicated about your issue/problem and the steps you are taking to address it.

**Don't hesitate to ask people to do something when they view your website i.e., sign up for more information and alerts, call a legislator or forward the website information to someone else that may be interested.*

8. Establish a timeline and assign activities to responsible parties...

Just like everything else in life, having a plan and executing it are important parts of being successful. A timeline is a document that lays out what strategies are needed to obtain success, when you are going to execute those strategies and who is responsible for that execution.

**Significant coordination and sophistication is needed in developing a timeline and sticking to it. Groups that have a good sense of where they are on their timeline are also well organized and have a number of leaders sharing the load and exhibiting leadership. When timelines are not being followed, it's usually a sign that the group is unorganized and or overwhelmed.*

9. Build evaluation tools into your work.

Simply put, an evaluation lets you know if you are accomplishing the goals you set out at the beginning of your campaign. Evaluations are critical to making sure you are on track and how well you've been doing at planning and executing tasks. Take your evaluation just as seriously as you take other components of your work because if an evaluation is not done, you risk ruining your entire campaign by never hitting your target and or accomplishing your goals.

**It's always better to identify an outside person/organization to conduct your evaluation to limit bias and to ensure that what is needed to be communicated is actually done.*

Five Ways to Communicate to Legislators

Face to Face, Letters, Emails, Telephone Calls and Testimony

Face to Face with Legislators

Hey You! Advocate. It's Showtime. All the work you have done has come down to communicating what you want to the people that can get you what you want...Legislators. The good thing is that you have all you need to know to get the job done...and that is **your** story and **your** experiences. Remember, you are legitimate and don't let a legislator make you feel that you are not. Now, below you will find a couple of helpful strategies to help you stay on task and get the most out of your visit with a legislator.

1. Be concise and to the point—keep jargon to minimum
2. Ask short and specific questions
3. Be dependable and honest—if you don't know then say that you will get the answer later and do it.
4. Have an understanding of how your issue plays with other residents
5. Compromise is not failure its progress
6. Know your opposition and what they are saying about your issue

Some things to keep in mind about Legislators are:

1. Legislators are elected to represent you
2. Legislators like to be informed and told something they do not know
3. Legislators need to hear from people that live in their district
4. Legislators are often thinking how this issue will play in my chances to be re-elected
5. Legislators like good press and do not like bad press
6. Legislators time is limited

Letters

Letters are excellent opportunities to state your position and get your point across. In the letter, you want to communicate your issue, the impact the issue has on you, your profession and/or community. Letters should always be addressed to the legislator you want to communicate to and should be mailed in reasonable time for the legislator to read it, follow up with you if desired and make a decision.

E-mails

Although letters are more desirable, emails can also be an effective way of communicating to legislators. Keep in mind that because emails are easier to send than letters, your email will be competing with many others in the inbox of the legislators' staffer.

Telephone Calls

Getting a legislator on the phone may be very difficult but if you do, keep your statements focused and to the point. After you make your point, ask the question of support. Something like, “can we count on your vote”. If the legislator is uncommitted, do not be combative; ask what you can do to help the legislator get more informed on the issue.

Legislative Testimony

Hearings are an opportunity for you to give public statement in support of your issue. Hearings are very important. Hearings are often on local public television and testimonies submitted in a hearing are submitted as public record for anyone to go back and read. Without your knowing, legislators read testimonies and often make decisions based off what they read or seek more information to learn about the issue. During your testimony, be brief. The hearings are conversational and a legislator may ask you a question and/or to elaborate. **KNOW YOUR ISSUE: Bill number, who sponsors the Bill, and the details of the Bill.** Avoid acronyms or lingo that will confuse. You will need 40-50 copies of your testimony to give to the committee clerk.

An example form to use as a guide is below...

Preparing testimony:

1. Print it on letterhead.
2. Date:
Name of
Regarding: Bill and title

Senator _____, Representative _____, I am (your name) and I am here today to representing (organization) to testify in support/against Bill and title.

In my work at (name of the organization or group, I see the impact of
Thank you for your time.

(signature)
Your name, title,
Organization
Phone number
E-mail address

CONTACTING MEDIA

Working with the media is doable with the right orientation and focus. Reporters look for and rely upon people who give them accurate information within their deadlines. When building a relationship with reporters or media people you want them to consider you a reliable source with accurate information.

Getting started... *

Building good media resources starts with identifying media people who will cover your particular issue. Go to the source ... read the newspapers. Listen to the radio and watch TV. Who are the reporters covering mental health issues? Also what do other advocates say regarding particular reporters or media people?

Types of media to Focus on:

- Radio/Television/Internet
- Newspapers Daily or Weekly
- Magazines
- Local Newsletters both in private and public sectors
- Editorials: print and electronic

Think about the scope of the media coverage you want, is it local, regional, state wide or national. Gather the resources accordingly.

Start a card file. computer index or file folder with relevant reporters. Set your file up so it is easy to work with and you can access the information quickly. Include the contacts name, title, address, phone/fax and email address.

To make this easy you could invest in a media directory that includes this information. (the Governor's press secretary will be a good source for a directory)

Media Techniques- Packaging the Item

When trying to get your story or message out you want to "package" it so that it's a newsworthy story. Is there a local angle to a national story? For example in the movie *It's a Beautiful Mind* - groups held public forums on mental health because of the awareness brought on by the movie.

Frame the issue - it should be easy to understand and to the point. Make sure your facts and figures are accurate (never guess) and are presented in a clearly. Stress how the issue is affecting the community by personalizing it ... *Mrs. Smith will be out on the street because the eligibility criteria have changed for her housing subsidy.*

Press Releases

Press releases have one major purpose, to generate interest amongst the media regarding the contents of the release and provide the basis for a story. It should be brief well written and most importantly, the release should be a "hook" to generate curiosity and inspire further questions by the reporters.

Key points for a Press Release:

- It should be no more than two pages typed, easy to read.
- Include who, what, when, and where in the first paragraph and why in the second.
- Include name and contact number at the top of the page and "For Immediate Release" at the top as well.
- Use quotes from relevant people i.e. program directors or leaders.
- Be prepared to have additional facts or sources available if a reporter was to call.
- When sending the release be sure to identify where it should go such as news or the editorial page.
- Follow up by calling key contacts to see if the release was received or if additional information is necessary.

Letters to the Editor *

Letters to the editor are an extremely effective and direct way of getting mental health issues into the news. The "Letters to the Editor" pages were created to encourage public debate and dialog. These pages are also among the most consistently read in any newspaper, it provides a great venue to get issues on the radar in the community. Additionally it is generally much easier to get a letter published than any other kind of article.

To increase the chances of your letter being published follow these rules:

- Shoot for 200 words or less. Stop at 225. Longer letters will not be published or will be severely edited.
- Use short sentences and short paragraphs (two to three short sentences).
- Include your name, home address, and phone numbers. Editors will contact you to verify that you sent the letter.
- Stick to the issue. Personal attacks do more harm than good.
- Letters need to be connected to a recent story. Exceptions exist, but are not common.
- Try sending the letter to different papers but be sure to reformat it or have a friend send a letter because papers will not publish the same materials.
- Many newspapers have links on their web pages to submit letters to the editor's directly. So if you have access to a computer, go to your local paper and submit electronically.

Additional Thoughts

Always be professional and honest with the media. **No matter how friendly a press person may be you can never assume what you say will not end up in print.** So be careful what you say. If you are going to provide additional information to the media do it promptly.

Cultivate relationships with reporters who cover your issue area or geographical area. Ask reporters/editors about the best way to get information to them; in other words try to ferret out idiosyncrasies and leave them with the impression that you are trying to make their job easier. Humility goes a long way. Get angry after you have hung up the phone.

CHAPTER 3

FROM

THE
COMMUNITY



TO THE
CAPITOL



UConn Students 2008 ABWF Capitol Tour

*THIS IS YOUR
GENERAL ASSEMBLY*



JOINT COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT
OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

2009-2010

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2009-2010

Connecticut's state legislature is known as the General Assembly. It consists of the Senate and the House of Representatives. In accordance with the Constitution adopted in 1965, senators and representatives are elected for two-year terms from single member districts of substantially equal population. The House and Senate meet at the State Capitol in Hartford. General Assembly committees meet and hold hearings in the adjoining Legislative Office Building.

SESSIONS

REGULAR SESSIONS

Odd-numbered years: Sessions begin on the Wednesday following the first Monday in January and adjourn not later than the first Wednesday following the first Monday in June. The 2009 session runs from January 7 to June 3.

Even-numbered years: Sessions begin on the Wednesday following the first Monday in February and adjourn not later than the first Wednesday following the first Monday in May. Even-numbered year sessions are limited to budgetary, revenue, and financial matters; bills and resolutions raised by General Assembly committees; and matters the speaker of the House of Representatives and president pro tempore of the Senate certify in writing as emergencies. The 2010 session runs from February 3 to May 5.

SPECIAL SESSIONS: The governor or a majority of the members of each house may call a special session of the General Assembly.

VETO OR "TRAILER" SESSION: If the governor vetoes any bills after a regular or special session ends, the secretary of the state calls a legislative session for the sole purpose of considering whether to override the veto.

MEMBERSHIP

THE SENATE: The Senate has 36 members. (The Constitution provides for a Senate of between 30 and 50 members.) Its political party composition is 24 Democrats and 12 Republicans.

THE HOUSE: The House has 151 members. (The Constitution provides for a House of Representatives of between 125 and 225 members.) Its political party composition is 113 Democrats, 36 Republicans, and two vacancies to be filled by special election.

TERM OF OFFICE: Two years.

ELECTED: In November of even-numbered years.

ANNUAL SALARY: \$28,000 plus \$5,500 expenses for senators and \$4,500 for representatives, plus a 55 cents-per-mile travel allowance.

THE SENATE

OFFICERS

President:

By virtue of his office as lieutenant governor, presides over Senate; gives the casting vote if Senate is equally divided.

President Pro Tempore:

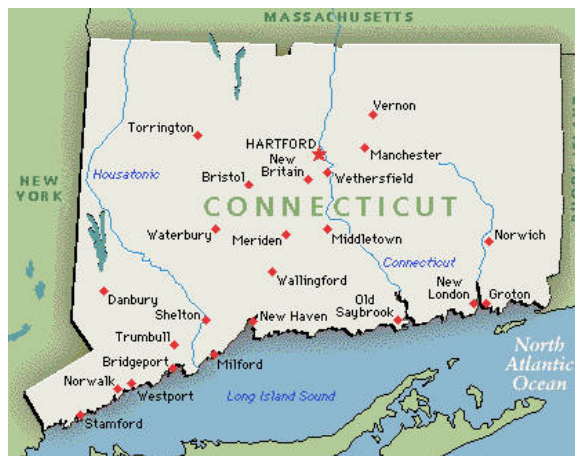
Elected by Senate; presides over Senate in absence of lieutenant governor; appoints Senate chairmen and committee members.

Majority Leader:

Elected by majority party members of Senate. In conjunction with the president pro tempore, manages the order of Senate business.

Minority Leader:

Elected by minority party members of Senate. Nominates committee members and designates committee ranking members.



THE HOUSE

OFFICERS

Speaker:

Elected by House of Representatives; presides over House; appoints House chairmen and committee members.

Majority Leader:

Elected by majority party members of House. In conjunction with the speaker, manages the order of House business.

Republican Leader:

Elected by minority party members of the House. Nominates minority committee members and designates committee ranking members.

FINDING YOUR LEGISLATOR IS EASY ONCE YOU KNOW

WHERE TO LOOK!!!! YOU CAN.....

1. Call your Town Clerk's office - the phone number is located in the blue pages of the phone book.

Give the clerk your address and they can tell you what district you're in and who your legislators are. *(Remember, you are represented by both a senator and representative)*. **You don't have to identify yourself just the street your on.**

2. Go on the Connecticut General Assembly Web page at www.cga.gov

On the main page find the House and Senate sections and click on Find Representative/Senator

**TOLL FREE
CALLS TO
YOUR LEGISLATORS**

JUST AN FYI: YOU CAN CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATOR AT THE LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING TOLL FREE!!! LISTED BELOW ARE THE NUMBERS YOU CAN CALL --- ASK FOR YOUR LEGISLATORS AND YOU WILL BE CONNECTED TO THE APPROPRIATE OFFICE.

Toll-free telephone #s:

Governor Rell 1-800-406-1527

House Democrats: 1-800-842-8267

House Republicans: 1-800-842-8270

Senate Democrats: 1-800-842- 1420

Senate Republicans: 1-800-842-1421



How Do



I

Get
There?

Directions to the Connecticut State Capitol

The State Capitol building is located at 210 Capitol Avenue, Hartford.

Traveling on I-84 East -Take Exit 48, Capitol Avenue, get into the left lane of the exit ramp and follow the signs for Asylum Street.

At the end of the exit ramp turn right onto Asylum Street, continue bearing right until you come to Pulaski Circle and take another right onto Elm Street.

Follow Elm Street to the traffic light, at the traffic light proceed across Trinity Street directly onto the Capitol grounds.

Traveling on I-84 West -Take Exit 48, Asylum Street, at the end of the exit ramp turn left at the light onto Asylum Street.

Get into the right lane and go under the railroad bridge.

Continue bearing right until you come to Pulaski Circle and take another right onto Elm Street.

Follow Elm Street to the traffic light, at the traffic light proceed across Trinity Street directly onto the Capitol grounds.

Traveling on I-91 North or South -Take Exit 29A, Capitol Avenue, follow the highway along to Pulaski Circle, go half way around the circle and exit to the right onto Elm Street.

Follow Elm Street to the traffic light, at the traffic light proceed across Trinity Street directly onto the Capitol grounds.

Parking -*Limited public parking* is available in the spaces immediately upon entering the grounds. On-street metered parking and commercial parking lots are also nearby.



How Do I Communicate With



Hartford County Community Leaders speak with Senator Edwards about his 50 in 10 plan to reduce poverty, July 2008

My Legislator?

CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

LEGISLATIVE TERMS

ACCEPTANCE AND PASSAGE

Short for of the floor motion for acceptance of the joint committee's favorable report and passage of a bill, as in "I move acceptance and passage." The motion is made by the member bringing a bill up for debate for the first time.

ADOPT- To approve an amendment, motion, or resolution.

AGENDA (COMMITTEE)

A list of proposed actions to be taken at an upcoming committee meeting, Must be published at least one day before the scheduled meeting.

AMENDMENT

A written proposal to change the language of a bill or resolution, prepared by the Legislative Commissioners' Office. Each amendment is identified by an LCO number and given a letter of designation (such as, H<> use or Senate "A") by the presiding officer when formally introduced on the floor. The letter designation is sometimes referred to as a "schedule", as in House amendment schedule "A"

APPEAL BILL

A request that the members of the full body overrule the presiding officer's decision to a question of parliamentary procedure. Requires a motion and a second and can be debated. A written proposal to change existing law or enact a new law prepared by the Legislative Commissioners' Office.

BILL ROOM

A central location providing copies of bills, files, legislative bulletins, bill lists, and House and Senate calendars.

BILL STATUS

The stage in the legislative process that a bill has reached at a given time. A summary of a bill's status shows all the action taken on the bill up to the moment the status is requested.

BOND COMMISSION

A statutory body, chaired by the governor, that allocates money to projects authorized for bonding by the General Assembly. Members represent the executive and the legislative branches. They usually meet monthly. Bond funds authorized by the legislature cannot be spent without the commission's approval.

BOND PACKAGE

The bill or bills authorizing state borrowing for specified purposes, usually capital projects.

BOXING A BILL

A motion for final action to defeat a bill in committee. The term derives from the fact that defeated bills are returned to the committee's. Bill box until the end of the session.

BUDGET BILL

Usually refers to the annual proposal specifying appropriations for the state agencies for the coming fiscal year. Bills that change the statutes to implement the budget may also be called "Budget Bills".

BUDGET RESERVE FUND

The fund to which any state surplus remaining after the close of the fiscal year is transferred. Limited to a maximum of 5% of the net General Fund appropriations for the fiscal year in progress.

BULLETIN

Short for Legislative Bulletin. The document showing the schedule for legislative sessions, committee meetings, public hearings, and other events and containing notes of interest to legislators and staff, It is published daily when the General Assembly is in session. It can also be located on the CT General Assembly website www.cga.state.ct.us/default.asp

CALENDAR

The legislative publication listing the agenda of bills to be considered each day on the floor of the full Senate or House. Each house has its own calendar.

CAUCUS

A group of legislators made up of all members of a particular political party or a group within a party. A private meeting of a legislative group.

CHAMBER- The room where the House or the Senate meets. The House or Senate itself.

CHANGE OF REFERENCE -The action by which one committee sends a bill to another committee.

CO-SPONSOR- To formally include a legislator's name on the list of a bill's or amendment's introducers.

COMMITTEE BILL- A fully drafted bill based on a proposed bill.

COMMITTEE CLERK

The staff member assigned to each committee responsible for maintaining its records, filing committee notices, monitoring public hearings, and performing administrative tasks for the committee.

CONSENT CALENDAR

A group of bills that all members of a committee or house agree to pass without debate with one roll call vote.

DEAD

As in, "The bill is dead." Means a bill is defeated or otherwise removed from consideration for the rest of the session.

DOUBLE-STARRED- A calendar designation indicating that a bill is ready for floor debate.

DRAFT

To write a bill, resolution, or amendment. A written version of a bill, resolution, or amendment.

EMERGENCY CERTIFICATION

A procedure by which the speaker and president pro tempore jointly propose a bill and send it directly to the House or Senate floor for action without any committee referrals or public hearings.

FAVORABLE CHANGE REFERENCE

Action by which one committee refers a bill to another committee with a recommendation favoring the bill's passage.

FAVORABLE REPORT, JOINT (also known as "JF").

Joint committee's recommendation to the full General Assembly that it pass a bill.

FILE COPY- Printed version of bill ready for consideration by the full House or Senate.

FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FAC)

Committee that approves certain budget transfers and appropriations when the General Assembly is not in session. It consists of the governor, lieutenant governor, treasurer, comptroller, and five members of the Appropriations Committee representing majority and minority parties and appointed by Senate and House leaders.

FISCAL ANALYSIS, OFFICE OF (OFA)

The nonpartisan staff office responsible for assisting the legislature in its analysis of tax proposals, the budget, and other fiscal issues.

FISCAL NOTE

Statement prepared by the Office of Fiscal Analysis of the cost or savings resulting from a bill or amendment. Required for every bill or amendment considered by the House or Senate.

FISCAL YEAR-The state's budget year which runs from July 1 to June 30.

FLOOR

The full Senate or House, as in "sending a bill to the floor." Also used to indicate who is allowed to speak at a particular time as in "having the floor."

FULL DRAFT-A bill written in statutory form ready for action by a committee.

GENERAL FUND

The money used for expenditures authorized by the budget and not otherwise restricted by the statute.

GO LIST- The list of bills on the calendar that the House intends to take up on a particular session day.

GOVERNOR'S BILLS - Bills introduced by legislative leaders at the request of the governor.

HOUSE

Either of the two chambers of the General Assembly. When capitalized, short for the **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**.

HOUSE BILL

A bill introduced by a member of the House of Representatives. House bills are numbered from 5000.

INFORMATION ROOM

Provides information on bill status, committee meetings, and public hearings to legislators and the public.

INTRODUCE -To formally present a proposal for consideration in the General Assembly.

JF DEADLINE UF- (Short for joint favorable report.)

The date by which each committee must report out bills or resolutions for further consideration by other committees or the full General Assembly. The committee deadlines are listed in the Joint Rules and all reports must be submitted to the Legislative Commissioners' Office by the dates listed.

JOINT FAVORABLE

Short for joint favorable report. A joint committee's recommendation to the full General Assembly that it pass a bill.

JOINT FAVORABLE CHANGE OF REFERENCE

A recommendation by the committee that the General Assembly adopt a bill but that the bill first is reviewed by another committee.

LEGISLATIVE COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE

The nonpartisan office headed by the legislative commissioners consisting of all the LCO attorneys and their support staff. They provide bill drafting service and publish the annual public and special acts and the Connecticut General Statutes.

LEGISLATIVE LEADERS

The Senate president pro tempore, majority, and minority leaders and the speaker and majority and minority leaders of the House of Representatives.

LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH, OFFICE OF (OLR)

A nonpartisan office providing committee staffing, policy research, bill analyses, and public act summaries for each committee except Appropriations and Finance. Revenue and Bonding is assigned its own OLR researcher.

LOBBYIST

Person required to register with the Ethics Commission who spends or is paid at least 41,000 a year to influence legislation. Lobbyists are required to wear blue badges stating their names and whom they represent. They may not enter either chamber, the areas immediately outside the entrances to them, or the Legislative Commissioners' Office.

LONG SESSION

The regular five-month session of the General Assembly held in each odd-numbered calendar year.

MANDATE

Anything the legislature requires, but usually used to mean a state-initiated constitutional statutory or executive action that requires a local government to establish, expand, or modify its activities in such a way as to necessitate additional local spending. All bills that include a local mandate must be referred to the Appropriations Committee unless the referral is waived by a two-thirds vote of each house. Whenever a bill contains a mandate, the fact is recorded as a municipal impact in the fiscal note.

MOTION - A formal request for a particular action.

NO ACTION- A method of defeating a bill in committee that does not require a roll call vote.

OLR REPORT

A research report written by the staff of the Office of Legislative Research. Another name for an OLR bill analysis.

PROPOSED BILL

A bill introduced by an individual legislator at the beginning of a session, not fully drafted. In even-year sessions, the subjects of proposed bills are restricted to fiscal matters.

PROPOSED DRAFT - A fully drafted bill, resolution, or amendment not yet formally introduced.

PUBLIC ACT- A bill passed by both chambers of the legislature that amends the general Statutes.

PUBLIC HEARING

A meeting which members of the public and representatives of state agencies have the opportunity to testify to a legislative committee on bills, resolutions, or issues before the committee.

RAINY DAY FUND- Common name for the Budget Reserve Fund.

RAISED BILL- A fully drafted bill introduced by a committee that is not based on a proposed bill.

RANKING MEMBER

The designated leaders of the minority party on a joint committee. Each committee has a House and Senate ranking member designated by the minority leader of each house.

RECOMMIT

The House or Senate's decision to return a bill to a committee that previously reported it out. A bill that is recommitted is dead.

RECONSIDER

Motion for a second vote on a question. A procedure by which a bill that has been voted on can be voted on for a second time.

REFER-To send any item of legislative business to a committee.

REFER FROM THE FLOOR (FLOOR REFERRAL)

Refer a bill or resolution to a committee from the full House or Senate.

REGULAR SESSION- One of the two annual sessions of the General Assembly held in each biennium.

REJECT- To defeat usually used to refer to action on an amendment.

REPEAL- To revoke an existing law.

RESERVE FOR PUBLIC HEARING - A committee decision to schedule a public hearing on a proposed bill.

ROLL CALL MACHINE

The electronic voting machines used to record members' votes in the House and Senate.

ROLL CALL VOTE

The record of the individual votes of each member of the House or Senate or a committee on a particular question. All House and Senate roll call votes are printed in their respective journals. Any vote that constitutes final action on a bill must be taken by roll call.

SECOND

To endorse a motion made by another member. Required for further consideration of the motion.

SENATE BILL

A bill introduced by an individual senator or first filed with the Senate clerk. Senate bills are numbered 1 through 4,999.

SHORT SESSION - The three-month session held during even-numbered years.

SIGN-UP SHEET

The place where those wishing to testify at a public hearing write their names to determine the order of their appearance before the committee.

SINGLE-STARRED- Calendar designation showing that a bill awaiting action has been on the calendar for two of the required three session days.

SPEAKER- The presiding officer of the House of Representatives, elected by the members.

SPECIAL SESSION

A meeting of the General Assembly called for a particular purpose. A special session may be called by the governor or by a majority of legislators.

SPONSOR- The originator of a legislative proposal, either a legislator or a committee.

STATUTE- Another name for a law. "The statutes" are the General Statutes of Connecticut.

SUBSTITUTE BILL

An amended bill reported by a committee. Indicated by a small "s" in front of its bill number.

TABLED FOR THE CALENDAR

The formal order for a bill reported out of committee to be printed in the files and appear on the House or Senate calendar. This step also serves as the bill's second reading.

TASK FORCE

A special group authorized to study a particular issue and report back to the General Assembly. Its members often include legislators.

TRAILER SESSION- Another name for the veto session.

UNFAVORABLE REPORT- A recommendation from a committee that a bill be defeated.

UPON PASSAGE

Used as the effective date for certain bills. Means the act takes effect the day the governor signs it.

VETO

The governor's rejection of a bill. A veto can be overridden by a two-thirds vote of the membership of each house.

VETO SESSION

A special session of the General Assembly held usually about six weeks after the regular session to consider whether to override gubernatorial vetoes.

VOICE VOTE

A vote taken by a call for Yeas and Nays that does not require recording members' individual votes. Usually used to pass amendments and adopt motions. It cannot be used for taking a final action on a bill.

WORKING DRAFT

A preliminary draft of a bill, resolution, or an amendment. Often circulated to interested parties before being filed and still subject to revision. Stamped as such by the Legislative Commissioners' Office.

YIELD

Short for yield the floor. One legislator's giving the floor to another member during debate.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A Better Way Foundation and our members would like to thank the following agencies, groups, and organizations for their help in preparing the 2009 Speak Up and Speak Out Law and Justice Commission Community's Advocacy Tool Booklet:

ACORN – Hartford, CT	Institute for Community Research
Alcohol Drug Recovery Center -Hartford, CT	Johnson Stewart Community Center
Blue Hills Civic Association	Justice Policy Institute
Budget Printing, Inc.	Justice Strategies
Cathy Spera	Love Makes A Family
Center for Children's Advocacy	Martin Street Neighborhood – Hartford, CT
Central Connecticut State University/ISJC	Meriden Youth Services
Common Sense for Drug Policy	NAACP – New Britain Chapter
Community Partners In Action	New Britain Spanish Speaking Center
Community Renewal Team – Hartford, CT	North Hartford Strategic Network
Connecticut Department of Correction	Office of Chief Public Defender
Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services	Patricia Sabato
Connecticut Department of Social Services	People Against Injustice
Connecticut Harm Reduction Coalition	People of Faith
Connecticut Pardon Team	Permanent Commission on the Status of Women
Court of Common Council	Phillips C.M.E. Church
Creative Networks	Public Defender Services
CT Against Gun Violence	Representative Chris Liddy
CT Center for New Economy	Rutgers University
CT Coalition for Peace and Justice	Sarah Diamond, Ph.D.
CT Network to Abolish the Death Penalty	Saint Joseph College Social Work Department
CT TransAdvocacy	South Hartford NRZ
Deputy House Speaker Marie Kirkley-Bey	Spottswood A.M.E. Zion Church
Drug Policy Alliance	Students for a Sensible Drug Policy
Drug Sense	The Sentencing Project
Drug War Facts	Tony Nelson
Efficacy	True Colors Inc. – Manchester, CT
Families in Crisis	University of Connecticut School of Social Work
Families Moving Forward	University of Hartford, Center for Social Research
Family Reentry	Vecinos Unidos - Hartford, CT
Gloria Beltran	Wesleyan Prisoner Resource and Education Project
Good News Garage- East Hartford, CT	Westend Community Center
Greater Hartford Legal Aid	Working Families, CT
Hartford Hurricanes Organization	Yale University
Hope Out Loud	Youth Rights Media Project
	YWCA- New Britain, CT



PO Box 942
Hartford, CT 06143-0942
Phone: (860) 293-0626
Fax: (860) 293-0872

A Better Way Foundation Law & Justice Commission Community Advocacy Tool Booklet

Speak Up!

Speak Out!

CONNECTICUT

Made possible with funding from the

Public Welfare
FOUNDATION

1200 U Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20009-4443